

**House File 2247 - Introduced**

HOUSE FILE 2247

BY MASCHER

**A BILL FOR**

1 An Act providing for the foreign-language instruction of  
2 students in kindergarten through grade twelve, providing  
3 a funding option for such instruction, and including  
4 applicability provisions.

5 BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF IOWA:

1 Section 1. Section 256.11, subsections 2, 3, and 4, Code  
2 Supplement 2009, are amended to read as follows:

3 2. The kindergarten program shall include experiences  
4 designed to develop healthy emotional and social habits and  
5 growth in the language arts and communication skills, as well  
6 as a capacity for the completion of individual tasks, and  
7 protect and increase physical well-being with attention given  
8 to experiences relating to the development of life skills and  
9 human growth and development. Students shall be provided  
10 instruction in a foreign language other than American sign  
11 language. A kindergarten teacher shall be licensed to teach  
12 in kindergarten. An accredited nonpublic school must meet the  
13 requirements of this subsection only if the nonpublic school  
14 offers a kindergarten program.

15 3. The following areas shall be taught in grades one through  
16 six: English-language arts, social studies, mathematics,  
17 science, health, age-appropriate and research-based human  
18 growth and development, physical education, traffic safety,  
19 music, ~~and~~ visual art, and a foreign language other than  
20 American sign language. The health curriculum shall include  
21 the characteristics of communicable diseases including acquired  
22 immune deficiency syndrome. The state board as part of  
23 accreditation standards shall adopt curriculum definitions for  
24 implementing the elementary program.

25 4. The following shall be taught in grades seven and  
26 eight: English-language arts; social studies; mathematics;  
27 science; health; age-appropriate and research-based human  
28 growth and development; family, consumer, career, and  
29 technology education; physical education; music; ~~and~~ visual  
30 art; and a foreign language other than American sign language.  
31 The health curriculum shall include age-appropriate and  
32 research-based information regarding the characteristics  
33 of sexually transmitted diseases, including HPV and the  
34 availability of a vaccine to prevent HPV, and acquired immune  
35 deficiency syndrome. The state board as part of accreditation

1 standards shall adopt curriculum definitions for implementing  
2 the program in grades seven and eight. However, this  
3 subsection shall not apply to the teaching of family, consumer,  
4 career, and technology education in nonpublic schools. For  
5 purposes of this section, "age-appropriate", "HPV", and  
6 "research-based" mean the same as defined in section 279.50.

7 Sec. 2. Section 256.11, subsection 5, paragraph f, Code  
8 Supplement 2009, is amended to read as follows:

9 *f.* ~~Four~~ Eight sequential units of one foreign language  
10 other than American sign language. Provision of instruction in  
11 American sign language shall be in addition to and not in lieu  
12 of provision of instruction in other foreign languages. ~~The~~  
13 ~~department may waive the third and fourth years of the foreign~~  
14 ~~language requirement on an annual basis upon the request of the~~  
15 ~~board of directors of a school district or the authorities in~~  
16 ~~charge of a nonpublic school if the board or authorities are~~  
17 ~~able to prove that a licensed teacher was employed and assigned~~  
18 ~~a schedule that would have allowed students to enroll in a~~  
19 ~~foreign language class, the foreign language class was properly~~  
20 ~~scheduled, students were aware that a foreign language class~~  
21 ~~was scheduled, and no students enrolled in the class.~~

22 Sec. 3. Section 298.3, Code Supplement 2009, is amended by  
23 adding the following new subsection:

24 NEW SUBSECTION. 1A. The revenue from the voter-approved  
25 physical plant and equipment levy and the portion of any  
26 unspent balance in the physical plant and equipment levy fund  
27 that is attributable to the voter-approved physical plant and  
28 equipment levy may be expended to fund the costs of providing  
29 foreign-language instruction to students in kindergarten  
30 through grade twelve pursuant to section 256.11.

31 Sec. 4. STATE MANDATE FUNDING SPECIFIED. In accordance  
32 with section 25B.2, subsection 3, the state cost of requiring  
33 compliance with any state mandate included in this Act shall  
34 be paid by a school district from state school foundation aid  
35 received by the school district under section 257.16. This

1 specification of the payment of the state cost shall be deemed  
2 to meet all the state funding-related requirements of section  
3 25B.2, subsection 3, and no additional state funding shall  
4 be necessary for the full implementation of this Act by and  
5 enforcement of this Act against all affected school districts.

6 Sec. 5. APPLICABILITY. This Act applies to school years  
7 beginning on or after July 1, 2011.

8

EXPLANATION

9 This bill provides that students in kindergarten through  
10 grade twelve shall receive instruction in a foreign language  
11 other than American sign language as part of the regular  
12 program or curriculum of public schools and accredited  
13 nonpublic schools.

14 The bill provides that if a school district is imposing a  
15 voter-approved physical plant and equipment levy (PPEL), such  
16 funds and unspent moneys in the PPEL fund that are attributable  
17 to the voter-approved PPEL may be used by a school district  
18 to pay for costs associated with providing foreign language  
19 instruction to students in kindergarten through grade twelve.

20 The bill may include a state mandate as defined in Code  
21 section 25B.3. The bill requires that the state cost of  
22 any state mandate included in the bill be paid by a school  
23 district from state school foundation aid received by the  
24 school district under section 257.16. The specification is  
25 deemed to constitute state compliance with any state mandate  
26 funding-related requirements of Code section 25B.2. The  
27 inclusion of this specification is intended to reinstate the  
28 requirement of political subdivisions to comply with any state  
29 mandates included in the bill.

30 The bill applies to school years beginning on or after July  
31 1, 2011.